

Public comment period on uranium permit open

June 27, 2008 - 10:27 p.m.

GOLIAD – Residents can still comment on the ongoing uranium mining project in Goliad County.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality prepared the draft permit which is now available for public comment until July 25. Uranium Energy Corp. has not yet submitted its affidavit that it has printed a public notice, TCEQ spokeswoman Andrea Morrow said.

The company published notice in Goliad's "The Texan Express" on Wednesday and rules state the public has 30 days to comment after that notice. The notice regards the company's application for the Class III injection well proposed permit No. UR03075.

The draft permit establishes the conditions under which the facility must operate.

The company also requested that TCEQ designate a portion of the Goliad Formation as an exempted aquifer, according to the notice. The exemption is required before the company can operate the proposed injection wells.

Write comments to the Office of the Chief Clerk Mail Code 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas, 78711. For help, call TCEQ's Office of Public Assistance at 1-800-687-4040.

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/793/story/270579.html>

Uranium company receives draft mine permit for Goliad County

June 06, 2008 - 10:36 p.m.

AUSTIN – The uranium mining company that started a project in Goliad County has received a draft mine permit from the state.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issued the draft permit to Uranium Energy Corp. and will accept public comment for 30 days, a news release from the uranium company stated. This would be the first such permit in 10 years for a uranium mining operation in the United States, chief operating officer Harry Anthony said in the release.

Anthony added that the draft permit comes after nine months of intensive technical review, and that more licensing and permitting lie ahead.

The company applied for an underground injection control permit on Aug. 7, and drilled test wells since May 2006, according to past Advocate reports.

Goliad County and some residents filed a notice to sue the company under the Safe Water Drinking Act for contaminating water wells earlier this year. Uranium Energy Corp. denied the claims.

Uranium Energy Corp. asks citizens who have questions to call the company at 361-645-2805 or to stop by the office at 138 S. Market St. in Goliad.

Reader Reaction

KennethSchustereit

Mark, it looks as if our friend "EnvironmentalGeologist" may be back. Interesting how he claims everyone else opposing uranium mining is ignorant and arrogant but seldom refuting what you and I and the rest have researched. What I said in... [read more](#)

EnvironmentallyCorrect

Mark - I can understand your apprehension. What you can't understand; you fear. You're the reincarnation of the Hutterites, a religious sect who over 125 years ago also feared electricity for pretty much the same reasons you fear radiation. Lack of... [read more](#)

KennethSchustereit

NativeVictorian: UEC specifically targeted absentee or elderly landowners. Harry Anthony of UEC has a long, nasty record of leaving dangerous, destructive messes behind for the taxpayer to clean up. Many of those children and grandchildren whose elderly... [read more](#)

NativeVictorian

Very good comment Mr. Krueger. I wonder what these land owners will do with all their money after they have sold their soul to h...? [read more](#)

KennethSchustereit

No real surprise here! TCEQ is not there to protect our Texas environment! Their function is a pollution justification agency! Give them some permit money and you can do just about what ever you want! This continues TCEQs perfect record on uranium... [read more](#)

Comment From: [KennethSchustereit](#) ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Sun Jun 8, 2008 22:54:56 CDT

Mark, it looks as if our friend "EnvironmentalGeologist" may be back. Interesting how he claims everyone else opposing uranium mining is ignorant and arrogant but seldom refuting what you and I and the rest have researched. What I said in my last post is scientifically, geologically and factually correct. It was indisputable, irrefutable and in line with the science. He doesn't offer to try to dispute or refute what I said, yet, I'm the arrogant one. I'll make you a bet! I'll bet neither this gentleman nor Mr. Klotzman have taken John Caldwell up on his offer to drink the nasty red and yellow water caused by Harry "Trust Me" Anthony! And until he sits down at a table and drinks a gallon of that swill he really has no right to sit back and call other people ignorant!

Unlike our friend here I am willing to put my health where my mouth is! I'd have no problem spending a year in a lean-to on the reactor building of a Generation III Nuclear Reactor! So how about our loud friend here; reckon he's thirsty? John Caldwell has some water for him to drink!

Comment From: EnvironmentallyCorrect ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Sun Jun 8, 2008 17:31:54 CDT

Mark - I can understand your apprehension. What you can't understand; you fear. You're the reincarnation of the Hutterites, a religious sect who over 125 years ago also feared electricity for pretty much the same reasons you fear radiation. Lack of understanding. But I give you more credit. Instead you like to fan the flames of ignorance with your writings. People such as yourself are the root problem that our country is having to import vast amounts of our energy needs from faraway lands. Oil, gas and uranium are all near all time highs in price. Is there anything you support? Or do you have one of those personalities that's just negative on just about anything you don't understand.

Environmentalism, an unscrupulous ideology, is preventing the drilling of much needed energy in Alaska, off the coast in Florida, and, (if left to you) in Goliad County. Instead you would prefer to continue to import from distance lands where their environmental regulations are much more lax than they are here. That's an elitist attitude in mine vernacular. Would you be in favor of coal mining in Victoria County in deep open pits as it is currently practiced in Wyoming from where the coal for the Coleta Creek Power Station derives its energy? I thought so.. While you are at it, why not import all our energy from abroad. It is well documented that societies with the most reliable and cheapest forms of energy have the most robust. Ours once was.

Kenneth Schustereit mind set is made from the same cloth as yours. He's in favor of nuclear power however, but opposed to the mining of uranium that fuels the heart of the reactor. I'm profoundly confused with this type of arrogant, elitist environmentalism attitude. The Sierra Club is opposed to all forms of nuclear energy thinking that relying on solar is the solution. So on a dark, windless night how will they keep the refrigerator running?

Comment From: [KennethSchustereit](#) ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Sun Jun 8, 2008 17:30:43 CDT

NativeVictorian: UEC specifically targeted absentee or elderly landowners. Harry Anthony of UEC has a long, nasty record of leaving dangerous, destructive messes behind for the taxpayer to clean up. Many of those children and grandchildren whose elderly parents signed these uranium deals are now looking to cash in. Some already are. We live in a sad, sick world where everyone is out for themselves.

"Uranium doesn't flow..." said one elderly lady whose science teacher sons assured her everything was safe. Cha ching! Look up the words "lixiviant or lixivate." You pump a lixiviant into a solid mass of uranium, dissolve it and pump it out of the ground. THEN URANIUM FLOWS! Can the uranium miners promise to get all the liquid ore out? No! Case closed!

Comment From: NativeVictorian ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Sat Jun 7, 2008 21:50:00 CDT

Very good comment Mr. Krueger.

I wonder what these land owners will do with all their money after they have sold their soul to h...?

Comment From: [KennethSchustereit](#) ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Fri Jun 6, 2008 23:18:51 CDT

No real surprise here! TCEQ is not there to protect our Texas environment! Their function is a pollution justification agency! Give them some permit money and you can do just about what ever you want! This continues TCEQs perfect record on uranium mining operations. Their failure rate continues at 100%! Like I said, nothing new here!

<http://community.victoriaadvocate.com/home/ViewPost/28046>

Public meetings planned for permit process

BY SONNY LONG - VICTORIA ADVOCATE

December 08, 2007 - 10:40 p.m.

GOLIAD – Ginger Cook had a question for state Sen. Glen Hegar.

"If state regulations have not caught up with the technology used in uranium mining, then why is it being allowed?" asked Cook, who owns land near where uranium exploration has been permitted in Goliad County.

The Republican senator from Katy was on hand at a recent meeting of area groundwater district representatives to hear concerns about uranium mining and other groundwater issues. The senator said much of this was "all new" to him, too, and promised to look into areas of concern.

Some in attendance asked for a moratorium on uranium exploration until acceptable regulations were in place. Legislation in the most recent Texas Legislature, proposed by Rep. Yvonne Gonzales Toureilles and co-sponsored by Hegar among others, addressed uranium mining, but opponents maintain those changes are not enough.

House Bill 3837 expands the Uranium Surface Mining and Reclamation Act to include uranium exploration and permitting activities. HB 3838 deals with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's jurisdiction over in situ uranium mining applications and operations. It also provides for sharing information with local groundwater districts.

Opponents of uranium mining say proposed rule changes to carry out the new legislation include numerous safeguards that should have been in place before any exploration was allowed. However, 16 exploration permits have been issued without the changes. In particular, opponents are concerned regulations do not require a baseline testing of water quality in any exploration area before the drilling of test wells. This is not currently required, nor is it in the proposed changes.

In a recent public meeting in Goliad, Melvin Hodgkiss of the Railroad Commission of Texas said the agency hired two people in September to work specifically with uranium mining. The lone inspector is based in Corpus Christi. The Railroad Commission issues exploration permits only.

On Aug. 7, Uranium Energy Corp. applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a permit for underground injection mining. The mining company has been drilling test wells in Goliad County since May 2006 and confirmed the presence of uranium.

"This permitting process is quite involved, and there is no specific date when it will be completed," said Lisa Miller of the commission's media relations office.

Public meetings are planned during the permitting process. Commissioners decide if a hearing to contest the drilling is warranted, Miller explained. As of yet, there is no set timetable for either. The public meetings can be held in Goliad, but a hearing to formally contest the mining would be held in Austin.

If permitting requirements continue on schedule, full-scale production could begin in the third or fourth quarter of 2009, said Harry Anthony, the uranium company's chief operations officer.

Sonny Long is a reporter for the Advocate. Contact him at 361-580-6585 or slong@vicad.com or comment on this story at www.VictoriaAdvocate.com.

Reader Reaction

KennethSchustereit

Harry Anthony, the CEO of UEC fully intends to destroy the aquifer in north eastern Goliad and north western Victoria County! Water quality tests to indicate a baseline were not taken until AFTER UEC started exploration! And Katherine Nelson of TCEQ has... [read more](#)

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/exelon/story/165996.html>

Comment From: [KennethSchustereit](#) ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Sun Dec 9, 2007 00:26:35 CST

Harry Anthony, the CEO of UEC fully intends to destroy the aquifer in north eastern Goliad and north western Victoria County! Water quality tests to indicate a baseline were not taken until AFTER UEC started exploration! And Katherine Nelson of TCEQ has defended that policy!

Railroad Commission and TCEQ fully intend to grant those permits and this will harm economic development in both counties!

<http://community.victoriaadvocate.com/home/ViewPost/23888>

Mining company, uranium opponents seek public approval

BY SONNY LONG - VICTORIA ADVOCATE

December 08, 2007 - 10:35 p.m.

GOLIAD – Opponents of uranium mining are fighting on two fronts: the court of public opinion and the courtroom.

On the legal front, opponents have requested a hearing to contest Uranium Energy Corp.'s application for a mining permit, the next step toward full-scale mining. Private residents, the Goliad County commissioners court, and the county's groundwater conservation district have all asked the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a hearing.

The hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial and, if granted, would be in Austin at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

If the groundwater becomes contaminated, some landowners near the proposed mining area say they would consider suing not only the uranium company but also the landowners who leased their land for mining.

On the public relations front, the county commissioners court has passed a resolution against uranium mining in the county. Although non-binding, the resolution made clear the court's stance.

Opponents also are funding a more visible effort in Victoria, where a digital billboard flashes its daily message opposing uranium mining. Some donations are collected at town hall meetings. A sign at a recent meeting stated, "our billboard has area folks talking and thinking." The billboard cost \$105 a day, according to another sign.

Harry Anthony, the mining company's chief operations officer, calls those in opposition to uranium mining, "a great vocal minority."

Guest columns and the letters to the editor in the Advocate also lend a voice to both sides of the debate. The residents' committee, Uranium Information at Goliad, supplies a regular column in the Goliad newspaper featuring questions and answers about uranium mining and the ongoing process. The group also has distributed brochures expressing concerns about uranium mining.

Those brochures caused Anthony to question the tactics of uranium mining opponents.

A photograph showing a barren well field is actually in Wyoming, not Texas, Anthony said, calling it intentionally "misleading the public." A caption under the photo reads, "Note the lack of trees and vegetation." The brochure does not state where the photo was shot, although a photo credit is given to Peter Diehl of Wise Uranium.

Ginger Cook, a landowner who is a member of the county's uranium research and advisory committee, said she put the brochure together and doesn't think it's deceptive at all.

"It shows ugly. And ugly is ugly no matter where it's located," Cook said.

Another tactic the company criticized is opponents' statement at town hall meetings that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality gets more than 80 percent of

its revenue from the issuance of permits, implying that the commission would lose money if it turned down a permit.

That percentage came directly from the commission's Web site last October, said Margaret Rutherford, who helped organize the citizens committee, but it "was withdrawn shortly after I presented this information."

"Eighty-two percent of all agency revenue from permits is very incorrect. Permitting fees are actually a fairly small percentage of our revenue," said Lisa Wheeler, commission spokeswoman. The application fee for an underground injection control permit is \$100, according to the commission's Web site.

The uranium company has done some public relations work itself, providing \$10,000 annually for science and engineering scholarships to Goliad high school seniors.

Until the fight shifts to the legal front, both sides remain focused on winning public opinion.

"I know I wear the scarlet 'U'," Anthony said the first time he met with the public in Goliad in June 2006. ""But we are here to extend our hand and be a good corporate neighbor. We want to make sure there is no misinformation."

Rutherford says those opposing uranium mining can't fight the battle alone.

"You can't be the silent majority here. We need everyone's help. Please help support the cause to keep you informed with accurate, research-based information."

Sonny Long is a reporter for the Advocate. Contact him at 361-580-6585 or slong@vicad.com.

Reader Reaction

KennethSchustereit

Harry Anthony a "good corporate neighbor?" Ask the people of the European Balkan states where he worked if he was a good neighbor! Josef Goebbels, "a master of the lie and half truth" had nothing on Herr Harry! [read more](#)

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/exelon/story/165990.html>

Battle lines formed over proposed uranium mining

Goliad landowners, environmentalists fear the worst; mining company says process is safe, beneficial

BY SONNY LONG - VICTORIA ADVOCATE

December 08, 2007 - 10:40 p.m.

GOLIAD – A battle rages in Goliad County.

On one side stand concerned landowners, the county government and environmentalists.

On the other, Uranium Energy Corp. has its eyes on the prize in the sands of Goliad County.

At stake: millions of dollars.

Goliad County residents want assurances of safe, clean water and a pristine environment now and in the future.

"Our families have lived on this land for hundreds of years. We want to continue to live here for generations to come with clean water and not in fear of what's in the water," said Margaret Rutherford, whose family property is adjacent to the uranium exploration area.

The uranium company sees the potential of about \$400 million worth of uranium beneath those grassy fields where cattle and deer now graze. Uranium company officials also point out that the uranium mining is good for the country, moving the United States away from dependence on oil and providing a needed resource for a growing nuclear power industry.

"This process is environmentally friendly. It's a safe, environmentally benign process for a strategic mineral this country needs," said Harry Anthony, the uranium company's chief operations officer. "Right now, we are dependent on foreign sources for our uranium."

The current battleground is Permit Area 123, where the uranium company has been drilling test wells since May 2006. The exploration site, more than 10,000 acres, is about 14 miles north of the town of Goliad.

Current leases, totaling about 2,000 acres leased from six landowners, range in size from 14 to 293 acres. The basic lease agreements include a bonus fee of about \$50 per acre. Once mining begins, royalty payments range from 5 to 12 percent and average about 8.5 percent, according to a technical report prepared for the company by a consulting geologist. Financial arrangements may vary from lease to lease.

In Goliad County the company has about 33,000 acres under three separate exploration permits. In addition to Permit 123 in the Ander-Weser area, Permit 127 in the Weesatche area contains about 9,000 acres, and a third permit thought to be in Fannin, bordering Victoria County, includes more than 13,000 acres. Details of the exact location of the third exploration permit are confidential by law.

That's about 51 square miles under exploration permits, 6 percent of the county's total 859 square miles.

The uranium company has applied for an underground injection control permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the next step toward a full-scale

mining operation. Once full-scale mining is launched in a particular area, that minefield will be worked for about a year, said Anthony. Minefields are typically 50 to 200 acres in size.

The uranium company will use an in situ mining method of injecting oxygenated water into the ground, mobilizing the minerals, and leaching out the uranium through a production well. After a drying process, uranium in the form of yellowcake remains. A ring of monitor wells also is placed around the mining field to monitor water quality.

The potential for full-scale mining has drawn opposition in this county of fewer than 7,000 residents who see it as another gold rush.

"Rural South Texas is in the bulls-eye of the 21st century stampede for uranium," said Art Dohmann, who serves on two boards in the county trying to keep uranium mining in check.

Residents close to the exploration area say they already are feeling an impact even before the first yellowcake is taken from the ground. The water is dirty and their water filters clogged and slimy. That's evidence they say that uranium exploration is having an effect on the groundwater. Landowners say that before uranium exploration began they never had the problems they are experiencing now.

"And this is just exploration mining," said Mary Anklam, one of those landowners. "What is our water going to look like when they actually start the mining?"

The uranium company, backed up by a letter from the Railroad Commission of Texas, says natural causes –not its boreholes – are the cause of the water problems. The commission is the permitting agency during the exploration process.

Opponents also have expressed concern about possible contamination of nearby Coleta Creek, which feeds the Coleta Creek Reservoir. The reservoir is monitored regularly for water quality, and there have been no changes detected as a result of uranium mining exploration, said LaMarriol Smith, manager of communications and education for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, which has jurisdiction over the reservoir.

No testing of the surface water in streams between the uranium exploration area and the reservoir has been done. The uranium company minimizes the potential for surface water contamination. The county groundwater district board has requested the river authority do testing of streams between the uranium exploration area and the reservoir.

Conflicting reports also keep the battle ongoing.

The Goliad County Groundwater Conservation District commissioned a model that illustrates the potential for movement of water containing uranium and its by-products in the area's unconfined aquifer. Studies presented by the uranium company argue otherwise.

As the battle rages on in Goliad County, residents in neighboring counties watch in anticipation. Landowners have begun baseline testing of water wells in Victoria County and in DeWitt County, preparing for when the gold rush crosses the county lines.

Those in Goliad, too, know others are paying attention.

"This is not just a Goliad County issue. It's much bigger than that," Goliad economic development director Sandra Lewis said during a recent press conference. "It's here and it's right now, but this is just where it's starting. But we're prepared, and we're going to stand our ground."

Sonny Long is a reporter for the Advocate. Contact him at 361-580-6585 or slong@vicad.com.

Reader Reaction

norseman

The cost to the taxpayer for Uranium mining disasters!

<http://www.powertechexposed...> [read more](#)

norseman

Hello from Colorado. We have the same issue! a Canadian company seeks to destroy our environment with in-situ uranium mining. At risk are the aquifers that run from Cheyenne to Denver. 11 sections of land owned by the railroad are under exploration. We... [read more](#)

dave123

Ok, I've been watching from the sidelines for the past few weeks and I have read all the information put forth. To begin with Ken, you need some help. After reading some of your posts, I can clearly see that you are a ticking time bomb. I'm... [read more](#)

KennethSchustereit

There it was on the front page of the Advocate today! An un-holy trinity! Down through history there have been those alliances before. Germany had Hitler, Eichman and Goebbels! There was the "Axis of Evil", and SAWS, SARA & GBRA and there... [read more](#)

KennethSchustereit

Both empirical and anecdotal evidence on uranium mining in Texas would indicate Harry Anthony to be a blatant and flagrant liar! This can also be said of those at the Railroad Commission who make it a point to always approve and justify uranium... [read more](#)

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/exelon/story/165997.html>

Comment From: norseman ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Fri Jan 11, 2008 12:08:43 CST

The cost to the taxpayer for Uranium mining disasters!

<http://www.powertechexposed...>

Comment From: norseman ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Fri Jan 11, 2008 12:06:03 CST

Hello from Colorado. We have the same issue! a Canadian company seeks to destroy our environment with in-situ uranium mining. At risk are the aquifers that run from Cheyenne to Denver. 11 sections of land owned by the railroad are under exploration. We are fighting this and wish to join forces with the great state of

Texas. Please see our websites: <http://www.powertechexposed...> and <http://www.nunnglow.com/>

Comment From: [dave123](#) ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Mon Dec 10, 2007 20:44:13 CST

Ok, I've been watching from the sidelines for the past few weeks and I have read all the information put forth. To begin with Ken, you need some help. After reading some of your posts, I can clearly see that you are a ticking time bomb. I'm surprise the VA lets you get away with some of the things you have to say.

I can understand your concern for the uranium mining in Goliad. I am neither for, nor against, the mining but have read everything I can get my hands on the "In-Situ" process and it looks a hell of a lot better than open pit mining. You say this Mr. Anthony guy destroyed property values in South Texas but from my research he has not even been employed with Uranium Resources for over 10+ years? Have you tried contacting that company currently to find out who is running it or what has happened since he's left the company?? 10+ years is quit a long time my friend. Anyways, I admire your persistence and local involvement within your community. It sounds like Goliad has a bright future ahead.

Comment From: [KennethSchustereit](#) ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Sun Dec 9, 2007 21:10:42 CST

There it was on the front page of the Advocate today! An un-holy trinity! Down through history there have been those alliances before. Germany had Hitler, Eichman and Goebbels! There was the "Axis of Evil", and SAWS, SARA & GBRA and there will be a future one; Satan, the anitchrist and the false prophet! Over the years of listening to those planning the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project I learned something about liars! They invariably have bad memories. I just got a hard copy of what they'd say and compare it to what they said next time. Without fail I'd start asking hard questions, push their buttons and sure enough, out pops another whopper! There's an old Hebrew proverb that says "Truth is the most powerful force on earth!" This is true. Veritas! Truth in Latin: truth never changes. Mark Krueger asked a good question; how do these people sleep at night? I can answer that. A sociopath sleeps very well! **He has no empathy for those he destroys!**

Comment From: [KennethSchustereit](#) ([Report this comment as a violation](#))

Sun Dec 9, 2007 00:12:33 CST

Both empirical and anecdotal evidence on uranium mining in Texas would indicate Harry Anthony to be a blatant and flagrant liar! This can also be said of those at the RailRoad Commission who make it a point to always approve and justify uranium exploration permits! Their own records prove that statement to be factually correct! Harry Anthony presided over an environmental mess where he came from and, I would allege, fully intends to make another mess here!

Harry Anthony's matter of fact statements concerning his consulting job in the European Baltic states is an indication of his sociopathic tendencies!

I would allege he needs therapy, not the position he's in! He is however, in that position because his foreign employer needs someone without a conscience who can operate in a manner that exhibits the maximum amount of antisocial personality. A man who can look for the "prize" without empathy for those he destroys to get it! Personally I'd say he's the right man for the job!

<http://community.victoriaadvocate.com/home/ViewPost/23887>